



Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A hoist ring assembly, comprising:

an annular body having first and second ends and diametrically opposed first and second coaxial sockets, said annular body being composed of two separate pieces, each piece having identical opposing faces comprised of one half of each of said first and second sockets therein, said sockets opening outwardly at a surface on each thereof and are configured so that when said surface on said separate pieces oppose and engage one another, said first and second sockets will become defined, each of said sockets having a radially inwardly projecting member of finite width;

a U-shaped hoist ring member having remote ends formed into integral stub shaft members, said stub shaft members extending generally coaxially and spaced from one another to define a co-axis therebetween, said stub shaft members being relatively rotatably received in a respective one of said first and second sockets in said annular body, each of said stub shaft members having an annular groove therein of a finite width conforming to said finite width of said radially inwardly projecting member, said annular groove being oriented in theoretical planes extending perpendicular to said co-axis, said annular grooves each being configured to receive therein a respective said radially inwardly projecting member; and

a securement mechanism for securing said annular body to an object.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Original) The hoist ring assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said radially inwardly projecting member is an arcuate bead segment on at least one of said separate pieces conforming in size and shape to a size and shape of said annular groove in each said stub shaft member.

4. (Currently Amended) The hoist ring assembly according to ~~Claim 3~~Claim 1, wherein a said arcuate bead segment is provided in each half socket on each separate piece.

5. (Currently Amended) The hoist ring assembly according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~radially inwardly projecting member is a pin received in a respective pilot hole intersecting each said first and second socket, each said pin being received in a segment of each respective said annular groove~~ separate pieces are identical to one another.

6. (Currently Amended) A hoist ring assembly, comprising:

an annular body having first and second ends and diametrically opposed first and second sockets, said first socket being defined by a first hole circular in cross section extending between and opening outwardly at an outer surface of said annular body and inwardly a first finite distance into said annular body, an axis of said first hole being contained in a theoretical first plane that is oriented perpendicular of a central axis of said annular body, said second socket being defined by a second hole having a first part that is semicircular in cross section and a second part that includes opposed parallel walls that are spaced from one another a second finite distance and are each contained in theoretical second planes that are oriented perpendicular to said first plane, an axis of said first part of said second hole being

oriented in said first plane and coaxial with said axis of said first hole, said second planes further being parallel to said axis of said first part of said second hole, said second hole extending between and opening outwardly at said outer surface of said annular body and inwardly a third finite distance into said annular body;

first and second pilot holes extending into said annular body and along respective parallel axes that are oriented in a common third plane extending perpendicular to said axis of said first axial bore, said third plane being oriented a finite distance from one of said first and second ends of said annular body and intersecting on a chord of a wall surface of said first socket and said opposing parallel walls of said second socket;

a U-shaped hoist ring member having remote ends formed into integral stub shaft members, said stub shaft members extending generally coaxially with and spaced from one another to define a co-axis therebetween, said stub shaft members being relatively rotatably received in a respective one of said first and second holes in said annular body, each of said stub shaft members having an annular groove therein oriented in theoretical fourth planes containing an axis of a respective pilot hole;

a pin received in each pilot hole and a fragment of each groove to prevent removal of said stub shaft members from said first and second holes in said annular body; and

a securement mechanism for securing said annular body to an object.

7. (Original) The hoist ring assembly according to Claim 6, wherein at least one of said remote ends of said U-shaped ring member has a thickness slightly less than said second finite distance between said opposed parallel walls to

facilitate assembly of said U-shaped ring member to said annular body.

8. (Currently Amended) A hoist ring assembly, comprising:

an annular body having first and second ends, a first axial bore generally concentric with a longitudinal axis and including diametrically opposed first and second sockets, said first socket being defined by a first hole circular in cross section extending between and opening outwardly at an outer surface of said annular body and inwardly into said axial bore, an axis of said first hole being contained in a theoretical first plane that is oriented perpendicular of an axis of said first axial bore, said second socket being defined by a second hole having a first part that is semicircular in cross section and a second part that includes opposed parallel walls that are each contained in theoretical second planes that are oriented perpendicular to said first plane, an axis of said first part of said second hole being oriented in said first plane and coaxial with said axis of said first hole, said second planes further being parallel to said axis of said first part of said second hole, said second hole extending between and opening outwardly at said outer surface of said annular body and inwardly into said first axial bore;

first and second pilot holes extending into said annular body and along respective parallel axes that are oriented in a common third plane extending perpendicular to said axis of said first axial bore, said third plane being oriented a finite distance from one of said first and second ends of said annular body and intersecting on a chord of a wall surface of said first socket and said opposing parallel walls of said second socket;

an annular bushing body received in said axial bore, said bushing body having a second axial bore generally concentric with a longitudinal axis thereof and a radially outwardly extending flange at one end larger in diameter than said first axial bore, said bushing body between a surface on said flange configured to oppose one of said first and second ends of said first annular body and an end of said bushing body remote from said surface on said flange having a length greater than an axial length of said annular body;

a screw received in said second axial bore;

a U-shaped hoist ring member having remote ends formed into integral stub shaft members, said stub shaft members extending generally coaxially with and spaced from one another to define a co-axis therebetween, said stub shaft members being relatively rotatably received in a respective one of said first and second holes in said annular body, each of said stub shaft members having an annular groove therein oriented in theoretical fourth planes containing an axis of a respective pilot hole;

a pin received in each pilot hole and a fragment of each groove to prevent removal of said stub shaft members from said first and second holes in said annular body.

9. (Original) The hoist ring assembly according to Claim 8, wherein at least one of said remote ends of said U-shaped ring member has a thickness slightly less than said second finite distance between said opposed parallel walls to facilitate assembly of said U-shaped ring member to said annular body.